

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 13 are pending. Claims 3, 5, 7, and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reuter et al. (US 2002/0019923).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is novel and patentable over Reuter et al. because, for instance, Reuter et al. does not teach or suggest a management computer that comprises means for acquiring in advance from the host computer storage configuration information that the host computer has and in which is stored information relating to where an entity of a primary volume is located and which of a plurality of volumes of the host computer and the primary volume constitute a copy pair; and change notification means for generating change information for changing said storage configuration information that was acquired in advance and posting it to said host computer.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 8 is novel and patentable over Reuter et al. because, for instance, Reuter et al. does not teach or suggest a management computer in advance acquiring configuration information of the memory device that is provided to the host computer, the configuration information storing information relating to where an entity of a primary volume is located and which of a plurality of volumes of the host computer and the primary volume constitute a copy pair. Nor does Reuter et al. disclose the management computer generating change information for changing the acquired storage configuration information and posts the generated change information to the host computer, the change information storing information relating to where the entity of the primary volume is located and which of the plurality of volumes of the host computer changes the copy pair.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 is novel and patentable over Reuter et al. because, for instance, Reuter et al. does not teach or suggest code for acquiring in advance from the host computer storage configuration information that

the host computer has and in which stores information relating to where an entity of a primary volume is located and which of a plurality of volumes of the host computer and the primary volume constitute a pair. Nor does Reuter et al. disclose code for generating change information for changing the storage configuration information that was acquired in advance and posting it to the host computer, the change information storing information relating to where the entity of the primary volume is located and which of the plurality of volumes of the host computer changes the copy pair.

The present invention relates to a control method for when synchronization is required between a plurality of host computers when implementing definition changes for the host computers, and more particularly, due to the need for processing to be performed in synchronization with the respective host computers that use a primary volume and a secondary volume when a volume pair definition is implemented. The present invention specifies the control procedures for sending definition information to the respective host computers in advance to guarantee processing synchronization. Processing synchronization is described, for example, at page 30, lines 10-13 of the present application.

Reuter et al. relates to an operational method for partitioning a volume in a storage. The current definition status of a volume is collected from the operation host that is using the volume to be partitioned, the collected volume information is changed (partition definition), the changed information is transferred to the operation host, and processing for partitioning the volume is executed on the storage system by the operation host based on the changed information. In addition, a recovery processing or the like is also carried out when partition processing cannot be performed.

The setup method of the present invention for synchronizing (linking) and changing the storage definitions of a plurality of hosts (a primary volume-using host and a secondary volume-using host) at copy-pair definition is not shown in Reuter et al.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-9 and 13 are novel and patentable over Reuter et al.

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (US 6,898,727).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is novel and patentable over Wang et al. because, for instance, Wang et al. does not teach or suggest a management computer that comprises means for acquiring in advance from the host computer storage configuration information that the host computer has and in which is stored information relating to where an entity of a primary volume is located and which of a plurality of volumes of the host computer and the primary volume constitute a copy pair.

Wang et al. relates to a system switching method of an operation host which uses a storage. Definition information related to the storage is collected from a primary server, the collected information is sent to a secondary server, and the setup processing of the secondary server is carried out based on the information that was sent. In addition, processing for copying a volume being used by the primary server to a volume to be used by the secondary server is also performed as needed.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 as amended more clearly recites the characteristic features for carrying out the setup and change of a copy-pair comprising a primary volume and a secondary volume in synchronization with the respective host computers. The setup method of the present invention for synchronizing (linking) and changing the storage definitions of a plurality of hosts (a primary volume-using host and a secondary volume-using host) at copy-pair definition is not shown in Wang et al.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and claim 13 depending therefrom are novel and patentable over Wang et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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PATENT

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution
of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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